

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. Claims 1-14 have been rejected.

The drawings have been objected to because of improper use of underlining, a missing lead line and a missing reference numeral. The drawings have been corrected. Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The drawings have also been objected to for containing reference signs (*i.e.*, 28a-28f) not mentioned in the description. Applicants would like to direct attention to the following references to 28a-28f in the Specification as originally filed: on page 5, line 12 (28d-f), line 14 (28a, 28b), line 18 (28c, 28d), line 19 (28e, 28f) and line 23 (28a-f). Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ismail (US Patent No. 4,362,905). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-12 are patentable for the reasons set forth below.

Ismail does not disclose or suggest "a plurality of electrical conductors extending into the interior region of the adapter through the entrance face of the housing" as recited in Applicant's claims 1 and 9. The Examiner directs attention to Figure 6 of Ismail for a plurality of electrical conductors extending into the interior region of the adapter 42. Figure 6 illustrates a 4-contact plug 52 and a 3-contact plug 46 extending into the interior region of the adaptor 42; however, Figure 6 does not disclose or suggest electrical conductors extending into the interior region of the adaptor. Similarly, the text and the other figures do not disclose or suggest electrical conductors extending into the interior region of the adaptor. Because Ismail does not disclose or suggest "a plurality of electrical conductors extending into the interior region of the adaptor through the entrance face of the housing" as required by Applicant's claim 1, from which claims 2-8 directly or indirectly depend, and as required by claim 9, from which claims 10-12 directly or indirectly depend, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Similarly, Ismail does not disclose or suggest a data terminal connected to a third subset of the electrical conductors as recited by Applicant's claim 2. Ismail discloses an auxiliary recorder jack 58, for connecting a voice recorder, for example, but an auxiliary recorder jack is not the same as a data terminal. A recorder jack, as its name suggests, is a connector to which can be connected a recording machine, whereas a data terminal is a communications device that is the source or destination of signals on a network, typically a terminal or computer. Because Ismail does not disclose or suggest a data terminal, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the 102(b) rejection of claim 2.

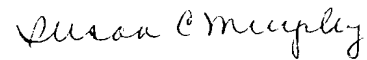
Claims 13-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bell (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,340). It is respectfully submitted that claims 13-14 are patentable for the reasons set forth below.

Bell discloses a first filter coupled between a common connector and a data connector to filter out voice signals and to pass data signals to a data device such as a personal computer, laptop computer, or printer, using a high band pass filter (column 4, line 66 to column 5, line 1, and column 6, lines 27-29) and a second filter coupled between the common connector and the voice connector to filter out data signals and to pass voice signals to a voice device such as a telephone or fax machine (using a low band pass filter). Thus "[v]oice band pass filters 207 are coupled between the internal telephone wire network 205 and the voice devices 201. Data band pass filters 209 are coupled between the internal telephone wire network 205 and the respective data devices 203." See column 6, lines 25-29. Hence, a filtering device is required for each telephone, fax machine, computer or printer connected to the internal network.

In contrast, Applicant's claims 13 and 14 recite a plug connector and a receptacle connector coupled to the same filter. Thus claims 13 and 14 are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 102(b) rejection of claims 13 and 14.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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